

disturbance. On the other hand, if an asbestos material has become crumbled or abraded, or if it is vulnerable to such disturbances, it should be either repaired or removed by qualified professionals. Basic elements of proper removal include adequate wetting and containment, followed by thorough cleanup with a specialized asbestos vacuum and proper disposal in leak-tight bags at an approved landfill.

How safe are our schools? State and federal laws require schools to be thoroughly surveyed for asbestos. If any asbestos is found, the school must implement an appropriate strategy for dealing with it, based on the recommendations of an accredited asbestos professional. Additionally, each school is required to have a person with asbestos-management training, and schools' maintenance workers are required to have asbestos-awareness training. The Division for Air quality has reviewed the asbestos surveys and management plans for all of Kentucky's 3,800 school buildings and has provided guidance to each for preventing asbestos exposure.

What if I suspect a problem? If you are concerned about possible asbestos hazards in a school building, you should discuss the situation with the school's asbestos designee. This person is listed in the school's asbestos management plan, which is available in every school's main office. If the asbestos designee or the plan is not available, or if you need additional information, you may contact the division's central office at (502) 573-3382 or any asbestos inspector at the following regional offices:

Ashland

Karen Deskins (606) 929-5285

Bowling Green

Laura Tomlin (270) 746-7475

Florence

Drew Vargo (859) 525-4157

Frankfort

Riley Stucker (502) 564-3358

Hazard

Phillip Turner (606) 435-6022

Owensboro

Leonard Clarkson (270) 687-7304

Paducah

Sherl Devers (270) 898-8468



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March 2003



ASBESTOS-HOW CAN IT BE CONTROLLED?



At Home



At School



At Work

CONTROLLING ASBESTOS

The division has rules to help keep asbestos out of the air we breathe. Asbestos is a microscopic mineral fiber that was put into thousands of kinds of building materials. It can be found in pipe insulation, flooring, walls, ceilings, roofs, and many other materials. It was useful because it made these materials fireproof, soundproof, and sturdy. By the 1960s, though, scientists had concluded that asbestos can cause lung cancer.

When asbestos-containing materials crumble, they release asbestos fibers into the air. This crumbling can happen when buildings are renovated or demolished, and it can even happen when materials deteriorate through aging. Breathing these fibers can cause lung cancer.

The asbestos rules require building owners to check for asbestos materials and remove them safely before doing any renovation or demolition work that would crumble the material and release asbestos fibers into the air we breathe. Building owners must use trained professionals to check for asbestos and to remove it. Before removing asbestos, these professionals must notify us about their plan to remove asbestos. Asbestos removers must build a plastic tent around the asbestos to be removed. In the tent, removers take care to crumble as little asbestos as they can.

They soak the asbestos with water to help keep asbestos fibers out of the air. For any fibers that do get into the air, special machines filter the air inside the removal area so that only clean air goes out of the area.

There are also special rules for asbestos in schools. These rules require schools to get trained professionals to check school buildings for asbestos. All asbestos materials that are found in the school are shown on a map that is kept in the school office. This map is part of the school's Asbestos Management Plan, which describes the asbestos materials and tells how the school will take care of them.

To determine if any asbestos-containing material is in your home, look for any friable (easily crushed by hand pressure) insulation materials around water heaters, furnaces and related duct work, fireplaces and pipes. Ceilings and floor tiles may also contain asbestos. If you suspect any asbestos-containing material is in your home, **do not disturb it.**

Due to the very small size of asbestos fibers, it is impossible to see them with the naked eye. Professionals experienced with asbestos (such as plumbers or building contractors) or the manufacturers of products which you suspect contain asbestos may be able to judge whether or not asbestos is present. You may also call

the Consumer Product Safety Commission, (800) 638-2772, to learn more about consumer products containing asbestos. Ultimately, only a qualified laboratory analysis can determine if asbestos is present.

ASBESTOS IN THE SCHOOLS

What is asbestos? Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fiber. It can be found in about 3000 different kinds of materials, where it was used mainly for its fireproofing and insulating qualities and for its exceptional tensile strength.

Is asbestos harmful? Breathing asbestos fibers can cause asbestosis (scarring of the lungs), mesothelioma (cancer of the lung lining), and lung cancer. However, the hazard exists only when asbestos-containing materials are damaged or deteriorated to the extent that they release microscopically small fibers into the air we breathe.

How can I recognize asbestos? Many materials could contain asbestos, but prime suspects are construction materials manufactured from the 1940s through the 1970s, such as pipe and boiler insulation, sprayed-on fireproofing, floor and ceiling tiles, cement siding, roofing felts and flashing, and surfacing materials. The only way to verify the presence of asbestos, though, is to have the suspect material sampled and analyzed by an accredited laboratory.

What should be done with asbestos? Asbestos materials that are in good shape may simply be left alone and protected from